

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/014,705

Examiner

Jonathan R. Stroud

Applicant(s)

ADDONIZIO ET AL.

Art Unit

3774

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment submitted 09/26/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-27, 29, 32, 33 and 46-49.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 12/6/2007.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-27, 29, 32, 33 and 46-49, in light of the examiner's amendment to claim 46 provided herewith, are deemed allowable subject matter over the prior art.

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The claims 10-27, 29, 32 and 33 had been previously listed as allowable and remain so over the prior art. Amended claims 1-9 and new claims 46-49, in light of the clarification of the examiner's amendment to 46, are held allowable over the prior art.

2. Claim 1 reads "expandable circumferential segments each having a single substantially S-shaped portion and (B) substantially H-shaped connecting segments." While both read clearly over the prior art, it should be clarified that a substantially S-shaped portion would include three substantially parallel portions of the same strut connected in a curved s-shape; and the substantially H-shaped connecting segments represent distinct segments with two fully parallel portions joined by a fully perpendicular portion. There are similar designs in the prior art (see for instance, Wu 6,254,632) where a generally S and H shaped connector exists open to interpretation on a helical element; but no prior art was found that could define the specific fully S and H shaped elements. Thus, with this added clarification, these claims are deemed in condition for allowance.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in an interview with Richard Sterner on Dec. 06, 2007.

Claim 46 has been amended hereby to say:

46. The stent of claim 1, wherein each main body cylindrical element comprises:
(1) a first plurality of the expandable circumferential segments of ~~(a) in claim 1~~ and
(2) a second plurality of circumferential segments, wherein the first and second pluralities of circumferential segments are joined to each other by the connecting-segment portions of the helical segments, thereby forming the cylindrical element, and further wherein the first and second pluralities Of circumferential segments comprise a majority of the circumference of each cylindrical element.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan R. Stroud whose telephone number is 571-270-3070. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Corrine McDermott can be reached on (571)272-4754. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jonathan Stroud/
X0-3070

Thomas Sweet
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[Signature]